

REGARDING THE SERVICE OF THE  
MONTFORD POINT MARINES**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Representative LANE EVANS as an original cosponsor, with the Congressional Black Caucus, of this Resolution honoring the Montford Point Marines.

In 1942, President Roosevelt established a presidential directive giving African Americans an opportunity to be recruited into the Marine Corps. These African Americans, from all states, were not sent to the traditional boot camps of Parris Island, South Carolina and San Diego, California. Instead, African-American Marines were segregated—experiencing basic training at Montford Point—a facility at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Approximately 20,000 African-American Marines received basic training at Montford Point between 1942 and 1949.

The initial intent was to discharge these African-American Marines after the war, returning them to civilian life. Attitudes changed as the war progressed. Once given the chance to prove themselves, it became impossible to deny the fact that African-American Marines were just as capable as all other Marines regardless of race, color, creed or national origin.

In July of 1948 President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order #9981 negating segregation. In September 1949, Montford Marine Camp was deactivated—ending seven years of segregation.

I am joining Congressman EVANS in offering this resolution to recognize their service and sacrifice and to acknowledge today's United States Marine Corps as an excellent opportunity for advancement of persons of all races due to the service and example of the original Montford Point Marines.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on February 16, 2005 due to the funeral of a close friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 35.

## REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds

for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to say that I will be voting against H.R. 418. We have made significant progress in implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, and I support additional reforms that make real progress in addressing problems plaguing our immigration system. However, H.R. 418 does not go far enough in improving this immigration system in ways that will enhance our national security.

Instead of comprehensively reforming our immigration system, this proposal seeks to overturn key provisions adopted in the Intelligence Reform bill last year requiring strict new standards for driver's licenses. The Department of Homeland Security is already collaborating with states to devise sensible standards that work. This bill rolls back this approach in favor of Congressionally-mandated rules which did not have the benefit of committee hearings.

Additionally, this bill creates additional, next-to-impossible hurdles for legitimate asylum seekers. Many of these asylum-seekers have been the victims of terrorism themselves and have fled to this country seeking freedom and democracy. About a month ago, I learned the heart-breaking story an Iraqi informant who saved North Dakota lives and lost his own in advancing the cause of freedom and democracy in Iraq. Though his family escaped with their lives, the continued risk to these friends of America now prompts our urgent attention. I fear that passage of this legislation today would mean that we would not be able to allow this family, who sacrificed so much, to enter the United States and remain here while their lives are threatened.

Mr. Chairman, I will vote against H.R. 418, and I encourage my colleagues to seek real reform that addresses the problems in our broken immigration system.

## REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act. This bill adds unnecessary burdens to the asylum process and unfunded mandates on state governments.

My home state of Minnesota has an ever-increasing population of new Americans. As is true across the country, thousands of my constituents fled religious discrimination, abuse, torture and religious persecution abroad. The United States is a beacon of hope for those around the world seeking safety, freedom and equality. It is vital that we remain that way.

The asylum provisions in H.R. 418 impose an undue burden on those immigrants fleeing persecution, torture, and other human rights abuses around the world. The bill would require the asylum seeker to show documentation of their torture. This would reverse years of precedent that allow a credible testimony to be proof of their case. It is outrageous to think that the human rights abusers abroad will provide proof of their crime to ensure an asylum-seeker can prove their case to immigration officials in the United States.

This bill will also place an unnecessary, unfunded mandate on states, most of whom are already facing budget challenges due to cuts in federal funding. Driver's license laws are the responsibility of state governments. Minnesota is on the forefront of developing secure identification for its citizens. Not more than 2 months ago, my state unveiled a new driver's license that is among the most secure licenses in the country. However, even with Minnesota's innovation, this bill would require a monumental effort on the part of the state to comply with the law, which is an unfunded mandate that ties the hands of state government.

I will continue to uphold my oath of office to preserve and protect our Constitution and the safety of our nation. No one wants terrorists to enter the United States, but this bill is not the answer to that problem. We must streamline and strengthen our immigration process, but we cannot do so at the expense of the abused, the tortured, and the persecuted.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING  
ANNIVERSARY OF LOU AND  
GEORGIA POULOS**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of two dear friends, Lou and Georgia Poulos of Phoenix, Arizona. On Jan. 30, 2005, the couple was joined by 150 friends and family members to toast their half-century milestone of matrimony.

Lou Poulos first met Georgia Hotis in the late 1940's during a church outing for teenagers at the Gold Spot bowling alley in Phoenix. During the following years, their relationship blossomed and their courtship began when the couple was in their twenties. Although it was initially Georgia's beauty and Lou's sense of humor that sparked the mutual attraction, the couple's shared values as first generation Greek-Americans and members of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, paved the way for their lasting connection.

Seven years later, the sweethearts were married in the Greek Orthodox Church on January 30, 1955. The couple held their wedding reception at the Westward Ho Hotel, an historic hotel in Phoenix located across the street from the bowling alley where they first met. In 1960, the newlyweds built a home in Phoenix where they reared their three children, Deanne, Jim, and Alex, and where they still reside today, nearly forty-five years later. The Poulos family has now proudly expanded to include Jim's wife, Tracy, Alex's wife, Shelli, and Alex and Shelli's five-year-old triplets, Sela, Ari and Alex.